



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Diane Stuehmer & Cathy Mohnike

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance grants for the 2015-16 school year .

RATIONALE: The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth.

Background information - Assistance for homeless children and youth has been awarded, through competitive grants, to school districts in Nebraska for over 20 years. Twelve districts submitted applications this year compared to eleven in 2014. Assistance will be provided for homeless children and youth to enroll, attend and succeed in schools in the Nebraska districts that applied for, and were approved to receive funds.

The twelve districts that have been approved to receive grants are:

Omaha Public Schools	\$87,000
Lincoln Public Schools.....	\$44,000
Grand Island Public Schools.....	\$26,000
Lexington Public Schools	\$23,000
Hastings Public Schools	\$21,000
Fremont Public Schools	\$16,000
Scottsbluff Public Schools	\$14,000
Papillion-LaVista Public Schools	\$12,500
Crete Public Schools.....	\$13,000
Westside Community Schools.....	\$10,000
Kearney Public Schools.....	\$ 9,500
Ralston Public Schools	\$ 2,000

Estimated Cost - \$278,000